such a stem the rattle is distinct, the separate clicks being as loud as those made by slowly winding a watch. After the first series of clicks the plant must rest some time before a second disturbance will produce a second fusillade.

D. S. KELLICOTT.

Buffulo, N. Y.

Bees mutilating flowers.

The note on bees mutilating flowers, in "Open Letters," was interesting to me, having been interested in the same subject myself. I believe it is considered safe to plant two colors of balsams (Impatiens balsamina) in adjacent rows without their mixing. Not being satisfied to take it for granted, I sought the reason. Upon examination I found the anthers were closely pressed to the stigma, thus insuring self-fertilization without any outside help. Also, as the flower became double, the opening to the spur was entirely closed by petals. Humble-bees, in seeking for honey, were obliged to visit the "back" of the flower and puncture the spur. I never saw one visit the inside of the flower nor puncture a spur that had been visited before, though it did not seem to learn that fact until it visited each flower.

Humble-bees, in getting the honey from Salvia splendens, enter the calyx and slit the corolla. This is a very interesting subject, and any one observing anything bearing on the subject would do well to make notes and send them for publication.

E. S. MILLER.

Wading River, N. Y.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Fossile Pflanzen aus der Albourskette, von Dr. A. Schenk. Bibliotheca Botanica, Heft 6, 4to, pp. 14; pl. ix. Cassel: Theodor Fischer, 1887.

The Albourskette, the locality from which the fossil plants herein described were obtained, is a mountain chain on the southern and western sides of the Caspian sea in Northern Persia. It is a locality difficult of access, and consequently has been rarely visited by collectors of fossil plants. The first to explore these plant deposits was Dr. Göbel, of Asterabad, who submittted a small collection to Dr. H. R. Göppert for examination. From this material Dr. Göppert identified (Schles. Gesell., 1860, p. 19, 20) six species, of which four were ferns and two were cycads. From the resemblance between these plants and those obtained in the vicinity of Baireuth, and also from geological considerations, Dr. Göppert concluded these plant-bearing beds to be of Liassic age. Later Eichwald collected from the same locality the species mentioned by Göppert, as well as several additional ones, and ventured the opinion that the strata showed oölitic as well as liassic characters. The material placed at the disposal of Dr. Schenk was collected chiefly by Herr Tietze, from the vicinity of Hif, near Kaswin; from Tasch, which is between Sahachrud and Asterabad; and from Mt. Siodshur, near Ah. This material was much